THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, this is a grievance of all the non-teaching staff in all the schools in the State. Is there any proposal before the Government to come to a quick decision at a very early date?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have stated that the matter is under consideration.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, it is the habit of the Government to say " It is under consideration ", for years. Will the Government say that they have any proposal before them for giving them any concession or remuneration as they have asked for it, instead of saying for years that it is under consideration?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is difficult, whether it is the Government or anybody else, to give up one's habits.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, are the Government aware that the cuts in respect of the non-teaching staff have not yet been restored, and, if so, what are the reasons for it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no particulars about it. The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Ranganathaswami temple, Srirangam

* 103 *Q*.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the rampart walls of the Ranganathaswami temple, Srirangam, are in a very dilapidated condition with stones falling from them and endangering the life of people living nearby;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the present condition of the walls;

(*c*) the steps proposed to be taken to keep the walls in good condition; and

(*d*) the agency to which the responsibility of maintaining them in good repairs has been entrusted?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes. The Chief Engineer (Buildings) after inspection has stated that the walls constitute a danger to the public to a certain extent.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Chief Engineer has given instructions to destroy all the live plants grown over the rampart walls. The Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration Department), Madras, who was requested to inspect the premises along with the Executive Engineer, Tiruchirappalli Division, a representative of the temple, and the Municipal

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Commissioner, to discuss the matter and suggest some workable proposition at the minimum cost in order to avert any possible danger to the public safety, has since submitted his report and it is under scrutiny of the Government.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, is it a fact that the ownership of the walls is being disputed and ownership is not acknowledged either by the temple or by the municipality, and, if so, may I know to whom do the walls belong?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is rather an anomalous and confusing position. Adjoining the walls, houses have come up, and there are private residents in those houses. To-day these walls are no-man's property, as a matter of fact. It is very difficult to repair the walls. It is costlier to demolish them. Taking all these into consideration, an estimate has been prepared to repair them and to remove some portion. This estimate comes to a lakh and ten thousand rupees. Now, the Government are considering how the repairs should be carried out in order to avoid public danger.

திரு. க. அன்பழகன் : தலைவர் அவர்களே, பழுதுபட்டிருக்கிற இடங்களில் ஆபத்து வரும்போது அதையொட்டிய இடங்களில் குடியிருப்பவர்கள் அங்கில்லாமல் அதைவிட்டு நீங்கிவிடவேண்டுமென்றும் பொதுமக்கள் அந்த இடங்களிலே வரக்கூடிய நிலைமை இருந்தால் அது 'ஆபத்தான இடம், நெருங்காதீர்கள்' என்று அந்த இடங்களில் அறிவிப்பு போடச்செய்ய உடனடியாக அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : கொஞ்சநாட்கள் முன்பு அங்கு போய்ப் பார்த்து எந்த எந்த விழும் நிலையில் உள்ளதோ அங்கெல்லாம் மார்க் செய்யப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. தனிப்பட்டவர்களும் அங்கே குடியிருக்கிறார்கள். பப்ளிக் ஹெல்த் இலாகாவினர் ஆபத்து இல்லாமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ள என்ன செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கவனித்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். ஆபத்தைத் தவிர்க்க ரிப்பேர் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதுதான் அரசாங்கத்தின் யோசனையில் இருக்கிறது.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Sir, does this come under the purview of the Public Buildings Licensing Act?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am not quite aware of the provisions of the Public Buildings Licensing Act. It is not a question of licensing here. Here is an old wall, and the experts in archaeology say that there is nothing in the wall which has to be preserved except some towers, from the archaeological point of view. Nobody cares to own the walls; and removing the walls appears to be too costly.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : In view of the explanation given by the Chief Minister that removal of the walls is costlier

than repair, will the Government take steps to prevent damage to the adjoining houses and the people therein without any further delay? Will they do the job quickly?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: In the circumstances, the Chief Engineer has been asked to prepare an estimate, and the estimate has been submitted. It is under the consideration of the Government.

Petroleum investigation

* 104 Q.—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the latest position of petroleum investigation near Pudukottai;

(b) the depth to which boring has been done; and

(c) the quantity of petrol expected if the venture is successful?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (a) to (c) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission conducted driling operations for oil in Pattukottai area of Thanjavur district. To obtain sub-surface geological information about the rock formations at depth, two structural wells were dug in the area near Pattukottai. Drilling had, however, to be discontinued at a depth of 839 metres as against the projected depth of 1,200 metres due to drilling difficulties. Another well which was drilled up to 988 metres near Pattukottai was closed on 13th April 1965 after being logged and plugged. The results of the investigations are awaited.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB: Sir, may I know the amount spent so far on this investigation and the estimated cost of the total amount to complete this investigation.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The project is being conducted by the Government of India. Details with regard to the expenditure, cost, etc., will be available only with the Government of India.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Sir, the question deals with Pudukottai though the Hon. Minister has given the answer with reference to Pattukottai. Is there any possibility of getting petrol in Pudukottai area?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN. I thought it was a misprint in the hon. Member's question. Though I could have merely said "No" taking advantage of the typographical error, I said that there was a project in Pattukottai.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: The Food Minister was reminding us about getting water to Pudukottai. If petrol is not available, at least will Government think of getting the Cauvery water to Pudukottai?